



## West Lafayette Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday September 10, 2015 6:00 PM  
Board Room (moved to Quiet Room), West Lafayette Public Library

Present: Curt Ashendel (presiding), Jim Bethel, Stewart Frescas, Nick Harby, and Andy Hirsch.

### 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

2. **Corrections were requested for the minutes** of the previous meeting (July 7, 2015) which were posted to the WLBPB web site (<http://www.westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Minutes.html>) on September 9, 2015 and also provided at this meeting. No corrections were noted in the meeting.

### 3. News of developments since the last meeting

- a. The July meeting of the [APC Transportation Planning](#) Citizens Participation Committee was cancelled.
- b. The accident on May 29 on the Harrison Bridge involving a severe injuries to a cyclist has led to the formation of a committee formed for improving bicycle safety on that bridge and in general in the two cities. The two mayors and their top engineers and representatives from each police department, as well as Opal Kuhl, director of Tippecanoe County Hwy Department are on the committee. Also attending are several cycling advocates. So far, the discussions have been broad, but specific actions have been recommended for signage and road markings on and near the bridge. Also, the APC and the cities will ask INDOT for \$30K of STP funds for safety education. Funding is likely, both initially and on a recurring basis, so a subcommittee, was tasked with determining the scope and initial target of this education program. The discussions are beginning to extend beyond the Harrison bridge.
- c. In a discussion of the original “Taking the lane” awareness ride on the Harrison bridge after the accident, Stewart indicated that safety considerations by the organizers were not adequately addressed. Also, there will be another such awareness ride involving the intersection of Cumberland Ave and Sagamore Parkway West where a cyclist was recently hit (by a car turning right) in the trail crosswalk across Sagamore Parkway. This will be Saturday September 26, which also happens to be a home Purdue football game.
- d. Purdue’s commercial bike-share program by Zagster was inaugurated on August 26. This received a lot of press coverage. There was a lot of discussion about this, including comments (undocumented) that there were invitations by the Cities to expand this to West Lafayette and downtown Lafayette, as well as concerns about its long-term financial viability (noting that a grant from Alcoa was needed for its initiation), especially during the colder months. Andy said that there will be a report to the WL Traffic Commission and that he will share that with this committee.
- e. The Center for Transportation Studies at the Univ. of Minnesota released a paper on automated bicycle and pedestrian counting devices that rigorously compares several new technologies that are commercially available for reasonable prices. The current standards for methods and accuracy expectations are also reviewed in this paper. The URL for the web page is: <http://www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/ResearchReports/reportdetail.html?id=2454>  
Curt briefly summarized the report and there was no other discussion.

- f. According to the LAB, the next multi-year Federal Highway funding legislation has reached the House floor and there may soon be proposed an amendment from the floor to remove the TAP (transportation alternatives program) funding, which is primarily used for cycling and trail infrastructure and policy development. You may wish to share your opinion on this with your Representative in Congress.
- g. October 7 is National Walk to School day. Only 8 schools in Indiana have registered with Health by Design in Indy, which attempts to coordinate efforts. None are in this area and nearly all are private schools. Roseann Lyle has noted previously that these efforts are very labor intensive and this is one of the major obstacles to greater participation. Anyone wishing to help out with Walk to School Day or Bike to School day should contact her.
- h. Stewart indicated that the City of Lafayette Trail Plan was approved on its second reading by the Lafayette City Council.

#### **4. Open forum for problems and ideas for new actions**

- Stewart commented that the new process being used by Purdue to tag and remove bicycles abandoned on racks on campus appears to be working well, with many fewer observations of apparently abandoned bicycles.
- Curt commented on the concept of replacing Bike to Work day with a series of events that are similar to Sunday Parkways, called Open Streets (see <http://openstreetsproject.org/> for more information). These events close a major street (or multiple streets) to motor vehicle traffic and allow for a variety of events and other users to take over the thoroughfare. These are similar to Ciclovía in Bogota, Columbia, and have been held in many cities. Mostly host cities are larger than Lafayette/West Lafayette, though the list includes Bloomington. Stewart suggested doing this with State Street in West Lafayette.

#### **5. Projects of the Committee discussed**

None were discussed.

#### **6. Other business and announcements**

- The next scheduled meeting of the APC CPC likely will be on Tuesday September 22 at 7:00 pm.
- The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for Thursday November 12, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

#### **7. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:08 pm**

*These minutes were submitted to the WLBPC website on September 28, 2015 by Curt Ashendel*